Women literacy

1560. SHRI DHULESHWAR MEENA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention have been invited to the World Bank Study according to which the women literacy rate is "lowest" in India particularly in the rural parts of Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh, which together contain half of India's rural illiterate women;

(b) if so, whether any strategy to combat the situation is proposed to be evolved; if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) According to the provisional figures of 1991 census the total number of illiterate women in rural areas in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh is 129.24 million as against the total of 227.62 million women illiterates in rural areas in the country as a whole.

(b) and (c) Keeping in view the policy for removal of disparity in access to educational opportunity suffered by women, several strategies have been initiated recently to promote women's education throughout the country with emphasis on women in rural and tribal areas. Some of these are as under:

(i) *Mahila Samakhya* : The basic thrust of this programme is to create a mechanism whereby women are given an opportunity to plan and monitor their own education and reach out to a new body of knowledge. It aims at involving women in the process of educational planning at the village level and providing educational inputs like non-formal education centres, training of village school teachers and production of educational materials. This project has been launched in 10 districts, 3 each of Gujarat and Karnataka and of Uttar Pradesh.

(ii) *School Education*: In the sch education, measures taken for p moting education in the girls incl recruitment of more women teach for primary schools, incentives sc mes like distribution of free t books and unifoms, free education girls upto Class VIII in all gove ment local body and aided scho and upto class X in most of States/Union Territories.

(iii) *Non-Formal Education*: Nir per cent assistance is released by Central Government for running Non-formal Education Centres girls in the 10 educationally ba ward. States, the remaining 10 cent being met by the State Gove ment concerned.

(iv) *Adult Education*: Specific ste in adult education program include:

—appointment of large number women adult education functi aries such as volunteers, Instr tors and Preraks both in centre based programmes as v as in the total literacy campai

—involvement of a large num of voluntary agencies especi those working for women;

—more attention by Shrar Vidyapeeths to women worker

—special orientation and train of women Instructors as effec agents for promoting wom equality;

—provision of opportunities retention of literacy skills application of this learning improving their living conditi

—production of films on wo literacy and empowerment, their telecast through Doord shan for both motivational well as instructional purposes.